

KC DX NEWS

ABØX-EDITOR

KCDXC Website: <http://www.kcdxclub.com/>

April 2020

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NEXT KCDXC MEETING: APRIL 27TH-MEETING CANCELED!!!

The April meeting has been canceled. The Central Resource Library 9875 W 87th Street in Overland Park KS, has closed their facility to large meetings. However, **KØVXU is working on setting up a virtual club meeting.** Watch your email for details if the meeting can be set up. The famous Pie Eating Contest will re-convene after the next actual KCDXC meeting. May KCDXC meeting has been canceled because the Library is still closed.

2020 KCDXC DUES!

All KCDXC members are reminded to send in their 2020 dues. Our KCDXC web page has a Paypal link on it to pay dues with, if desired. Scroll to the bottom of the web page. Also, dues can be mailed to **WØZAP, RICHARD D PARENT, 5011 West 155th Terrace, OVERLAND PARK, KS 66224-3813, USA.** Of course, our new Treasurer will accept your cash or check at the next KCDXC meeting. KCDXC dues remain at \$20!

If you have forgotten if you are paid up, check the roster updates to see who has paid for 2020 on the KCDXC web page at: <http://www.kcdxclub.com/roster.html>.

CONTEST UNIVERSITY-LEARN THE LATEST CONTEST TIPS!

Contest University 2020, normally held the day before the Hamvention at the Crowne Plaza hotel, will be held online free, via Zoom (Link will be available on May 7th) Thursday, May 14th 9:00 am EDT CTU 2020 outline is available on the 2020 Course Outline Page

Link: <https://www.contestuniversity.com/>

Have you always wanted to attend the Contest University, but just haven't been able to get to Dayton a day earlier?? Here's your chance!

The KCDXC Honor Roll was created 40 years ago when I became the editor of the newsletter. There are no official club guidelines for the Honor Roll as it was AB0X's copyrighted feature. It has operated on the honor system. The numbers shown are whatever the DX Club member tells the Editor. Only active, paid up members will be listed . The same goes for the KCDXC Honor Roll on our web page handled by W0XE -AB0X

KCDXC DXCC HONOR ROLL

Call	Mixed	CW	Phone	DIGI	IOTA	160	6 M DXCC	DX Challenge
AB0X	357	353	349	232		225	23	2374
W0GJ	354	344	354	292		236	20	2799
N0RB	352	346	350				23	1806
K0CA	350	349	350	331	318	112		2631
N0CWR	350	349	350	326	975	202	48	2890
NX0I	350	349	347	244		208	4	2502
K3PA	350	348	345	319		186	36	2729
K0HQW	349	333	347			33		1352
KS0DX	347	318	348	129	360			2218
K4SV	346	340	344	337		301	87	2852
AC0A	348	318	348		838		15	2223
K0VXU	348	335	331	265	439	143	2	2295
K0GY	344	340	344	290			5	2295
KB0X	336							
K0AP	334	331	325	295		47	5	2353
W0QQ	334	231	332	193	151	110		1706
K4SX	331	277	314	146		52		1617
KE5BR	330	177	297	79				742
WA0WOF	330							
K0THN	329	314	284		179	1		
W0MB	325	229	324	251				1849
W0FS	322	270	295	230	657	181		1165
K0XM	321	282	274	42	26			1770
AA0MZ	312	290	292	220	532	44	20	1296
AC0C	310	306	267	243	160	128	3	1852
NS0D	263	219	142	130		3	2	
W0XE	248	216	193	14				833
AI60	238	205	176	205		19	10	
AD0K	226	214	80	85	183	22	3	888
W0DR	225	30	174	70		5	7	622
N9GB	203							
KS0AA	172	75	84	154		3		507
W0ZAP	144	34	72	77		5	5	218
WD0SRI	63	17	56			1	1	

Red indicates member is at the top of the DXCC Honor Roll in that respective class. Totals are with deletions.

NOTE: When changes of DXCC totals are sent in to me, they are immediately updated in the next month here in the newsletter. Send to ab0x@kc.rr.com . All updates are shared with W0XE, for the KCDXC web page. Please only one update a month.

DALLAS HAMCOM CANCELED!

NØRB reports that the annual Hamcom and DX Dinner in mid-June in Dallas sponsored by the Lone Star DX Association has been canceled like most hamfests recently, but put it on your calendar for June 2021!

DXCC CARD CHECKING AT KCDXC MEETING

AC0A and AB0X are available for DXCC & WAS card checking services at most KCDXC meetings. Please remember to load your cards into the DXCC system on the ARRL web page prior to the meeting and print out the forms for checking. The cost is less and checking is easier for the checkers. Remember to bring a stamped and addressed envelope with the forms for the checkers. Contact the checkers if you have large quantities of cards to be checked prior to the meeting: freeland66215@sbcglobal.net or ab0x@kc.rr.com.

NEW W0XE LOGGING PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR W0AR!

Don, W0XE, has remodeled his W0AR logging program for 2020 and has sent it out all to all. It is a simple, but highly efficient, record keeping program for W0AR Contest. Contact W0XE at ddevins@kc.rr.com if you missed the email.

DX NEWS & VIEWS

BY AB0X

The KCDXC has a sizeable number of members who are new to DX even though many have been licensed for a long time. I thought it might be interesting to look back and discuss aspects of DXpeditions in the past as compared to modern DX activity. Today DXpeditions are limited primarily by the cost of a trip to a rare spot and the logistics of getting there. In the past there was another key feature that had to be considered. This was the safety of the operators and the travel crew from attack from military forces of foreign governments.

In the late 1970's thru the 1980's several ops had threatening situations occur that most likely would not happen if the same trip was planned and carried out today. One well known DXpedition in 1983 to the Spratly Islands experienced one of the most dangerous and life threatening situations in the history of DX.

DJ6SI, Baldur, DJ3NJ, Gero, DJ4EI, Diethelm and DJ6FK, Norbert, made plans to operate from the super rare, most needed Spratly Islands. The Spratlys are a series of small islands that are located in the South China Sea. These islands had been claimed by several countries in the region and were generally uninhabited at the time. The discovery of oil in the area around the islands sparked the interest of W. Malaysia, the Philippines, newly consolidated Vietnam and later China, in more modern times, all claimed the Spratlys.

The German team was an experienced DXpedition crew, who had made several operations around the world, hired a German sea captain, Peter Marx, out of Brunei, to take them to an island, Barque Canada Island, part of the Spratly Island, which they thought was uninhabited and relatively safe from the international dispute over ownership of the Spratlys. In route to Barque Canada Island they had to pass close by Amboyna Cay, another island in the Spratly group. On a whim they decided to just land at Amboyna Cay as it was a little closer.

As the ship approached Amboyna Cay, the team could see a small building on Amboyna Cay. It seemed to have a watch tower on top of the building. As they neared a single man was observed by the team standing in the watch tower. Seconds later artillery shells began hitting the ocean near their ship. Before long the gun crew zeroed in on the ship and began hurling flak right on the ship. Diethelm, DJ4EI, was standing on deck near the external gas tanks the group had brought along to fuel their generator for their

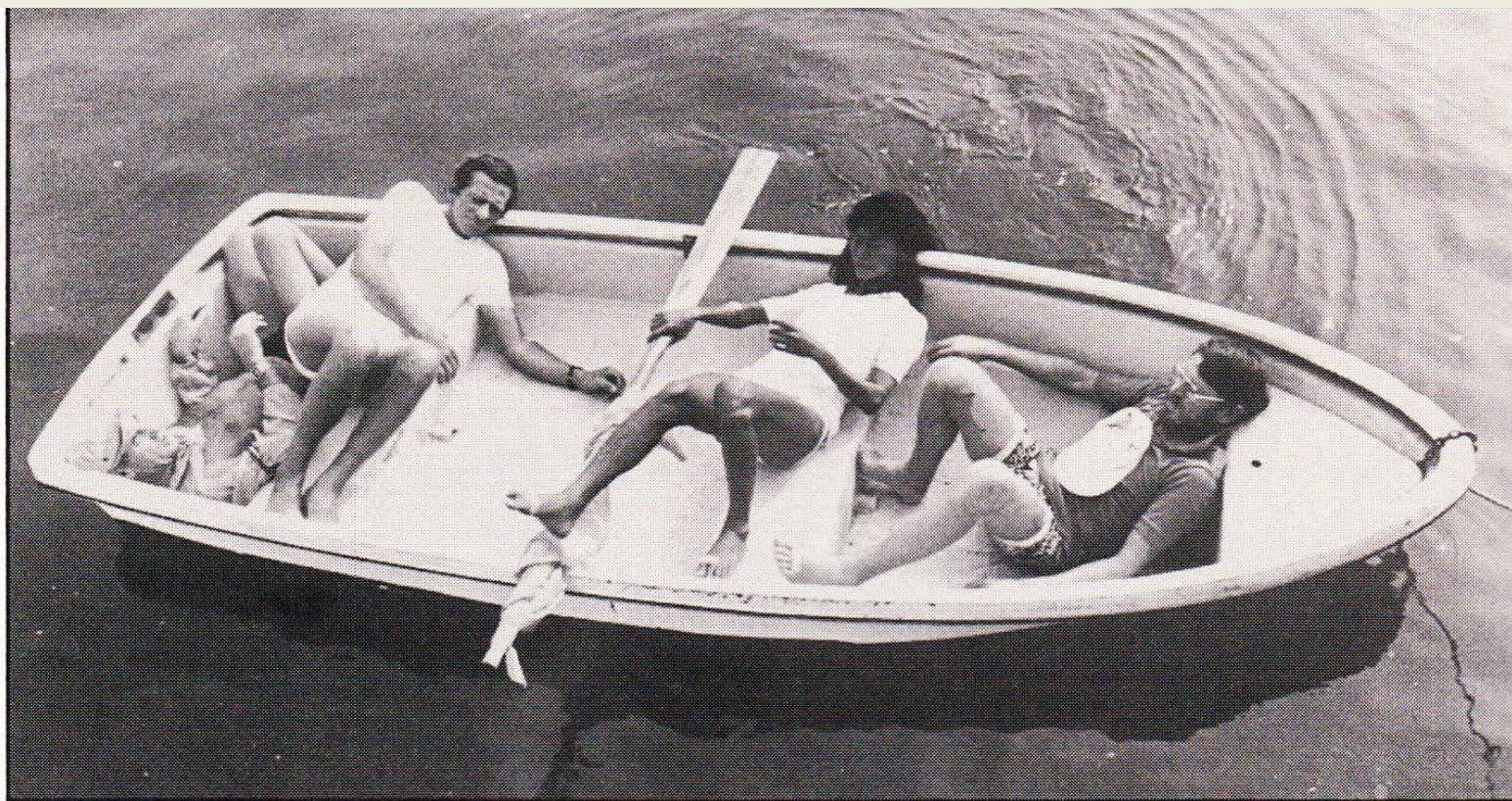
equipment. One of the shells hit the gas tanks and DJ4EI was never seen again. Another shell hit on deck and severely wounded Captain Marx. Gero was inside the cabin on 20 meters talking to N0Z0/DU2. He gave their location and details of the shelling. In the next instant another shell wounded DJ6SI in the arm.

In the fire on deck the dingy was set adrift from the ship. The captain's wife Jenny was directed to swim to the dingy and bring it back so the rest of the group could escape the burning boat. It was obvious the military forces on Amboyna Cay planned on sinking the ship with all aboard to be assumed dead. Baldur believed the people firing on them were Viet Cong soldiers stationed on the cay.

Five people of the group, Norbert, Baldur, Gero and Captain Marx and his wife Jenny escaped the burning ship and made it into the dingy. Gero reported N0Z0/DU2 would notify the US Air Force which would hopefully send search planes to locate the survivors in the dingy.

Unfortunately, the group found no fresh water or food in the life boat. Shallow water and sand bars around the Spratlys meant no international ships sailing in the area. The life boat also had a hole in the hull from the shelling. The group bailed water out of the boat the entire ordeal. The current slowly took the life boat out to sea and the military who had shot them made no attempt to rescue them.

The group floated for 10 days with no food or water. Gero died on the ninth day when he drank sea water in the night. Below is a re-creation of how the group looked when they were rescued.



The current caused them to drift eventually into the international shipping lanes and a large ship eventually rescued them. All were very weak and near death when they were saved.

What had started as a simple DXpedition to an uninhabited island had turned into the nightmare of their life. They all recovered after a few days of care and medical treatment. Baldur has since made several more DXpeditions that were much safer.

The DX world learned a lot from this experience. There are few spots like this one left in the world. Piracy still exists on the oceans today, but of course, hiring a

larger ship with experienced crews helps eliminate the danger. Outside of an illegal landing on N. Korea, no one would expect such an event in 2020.

Spratly ownership is still disputed and China has inserted themselves into the mix. Recent reports have state that China has built military bases on some of the islands.

East Malaysia has built hotel resorts on the western Spratlys and have a popular tourist traffic coming to the islands for vacations. It is an especially popular area for divers. Almost all of the recent (last 20+ years) DXpeditions to Spratly have used a 9M8-0 callsign and operated from one of these resorts.

A detailed description of the ordeal of the German crew was written up by Baldur, DJ6SI, and was published in *The DX Magazine*. Here's a link on the web if you would like to read the whole story: [http://hamgallery.com/qs1/country/Fed Rep Germany/spratly.pdf](http://hamgallery.com/qs1/country/Fed%20Rep%20Germany/spratly.pdf) .

Thanks, to K0VBU passing on this web link and a PDF of the article!-AB0X

Limited DX Operations and Expeditions on the air!

4J0/4K0, AZERBAIJAN (Special Event). Members of the Federation of Radiosport of the Republic of Azerbaijan (FRS) will activate two special eventstations 4J0STAYHOME and 4K0STAYHOME during the COVID-19 crisis. Lengthof activity was not mentioned. QSL via DC9RI (DARC or direct).

4W, TIMOR-LESTE (DXpedition Postponed). The following was announced on the "TIMOR-LESTE DXpedition 2020" Web page (<http://timor-leste-dx.de>): Unfortunately, we had to make the decision that we have to postpone our DXpedition to Timor-Leste to next year. The current situation based on the Corona pandemic makes it impossible to plan anything later in this year. The uncertainty of travel safety, the not predictable impact on the companies we have to rely on and the current restrictions that prevent a solid preparation, forced us to take this step. We hope that we can see clearer by the end of this year what will be in 2021. Until then, stay safe and healthy! 73, The Lagunaria DX Group

Y, TAJIKISTAN. Nodir, EY8MM, informs OPDX that "after 10 years of being QRT, the EY Hams can now operate on the 50 MHz band again. Analog broadcasting on Ch1 has been stopped early 2020." He also informs that hisEY8MM 6m station setup is fully operational. Nodir has already started EME activity and will be active in the upcoming Es season. SPECIAL QSL NOTE. Nodir states, "Please note that my QSL Manager K1BV is temporary not accepting QSL cards direct or by the Bureau. Please refrain from sending cards until further information is announced. I will upload QSOs to LoTW on regular basis." See about K1BV under "QSL INFO AND NEWS."

HAM RADIO FRIEDRICHSHAFEN CANCELED. Radio silence due to coronavirus COVID-19: Ham Radio not taking place as planned during the period of June 26-28th, 2020, but instead between June 25-27th, 2021. - Complete details at:

<https://backend.messe-friedrichshafen.de/storage/pressrelease/01d20-en-coronavirus-covid-19-funkt-dazwischen-ham-radio-findet-nicht-wie-geplant-statt-1587027405.pdf> Also read: <http://www.arrl.org/news/view/ham-radio-in-friedrichshafen-germany-announces-cancellation-of-2020-show> .

TU5PCT QSL STATUS. The TU5PCT QSL cards have been received from the printer. The labels will be printed and then the QSL cards will be taken to the post office. OQRS direct QSOs are already on LoTW.

VK9NK QSL STATUS. Janusz, SP9FIH, reports on April 18th: I just made first upload to LoTW. QSOs requested as direct via OQRS Clublog were uploaded. Please be patient - all QSOs will be uploaded when I am back home. Nobody knows when but I hope before next year... My priority now is making QSOs with all who need Norfolk Island as ATNO. Contact confirmations will wait for some time.

XR0, EASTER ISLAND. Hans-Martin, DK2HM, will be active as XR0YHM from Easter Island (SA-001) between August 27th and September 7th. Activity will be holiday style on 80-10 meters using SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via DK2HM, direct, by the Bureau, ClubLog's OQRS, eQSL or LoTW. ADDED NOTE: This activity is subject to the health and travel situation in August and may be postponed if necessary. Please follow the QRZ.com page and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/XR0YHM>) for updates.

XU, CAMBODIA. Chenxing, BG9XD, is now active as XU7AMG from Phnom Penh until June 14th. Activity will be on 80/40/20/15/10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via BG9XD direct.

U.S. POSTAL STOPPAGE (Updated as April 18th). The U.S. Postal Service has "Temporary Service Suspensions" outgoing mail to many countries. Due to widespread transportation cancellations and restrictions, the Postal Service will temporarily suspend international mail service to the following destinations. (Dates in parentheses show when service was suspended to that country.)

Angola (4/7/20)	India (4/3/20)	Rep.of the Congo
(4/10/20)		
Benin (4/7/20)	Kenya (4/10/20)	Rwanda (4/10/20)
Bermuda* (4/17/20)	Kiribati (4/10/20)	Samoa* (4/3/20)
Bolivia (4/3/20)	Kuwait (4/3/20)	Saudi Arabia* (4/1/20)
Bosnia&Herzegovina (4/7/20)	Kyrgyzstan (4/7/20)	Senegal (4/7/20)
Botswana* (4/3/20)	Laos (4/7/20)	Seychelles (4/7/20)
Burundi (4/10/20)	Lebanon (4/7/20)	Solomon Islands (4/7/20)
Cameroon (4/7/20)	Lesotho (4/10/20)	South Africa* (4/3/20)
Cape Verde* (4/17/20)	Libya* (4/3/20)	South Sudan* (4/17/20)
Cayman Islands* (4/3/20)	Madagascar* (4/3/20)	Sri Lanka* (4/3/20)
Chad* (4/3/20)	Malawi* (4/10/20)	Sudan (4/7/20)
Cook Islands (4/7/20)	Maldives* (4/3/20)	Swaziland/Eswatini*
(4/17/20)		
Costa Rica (4/7/20)	Mauritius* (4/10/20)	Tajikistan (4/7/20)
Cuba (4/10/20)	Moldova (4/7/20)	Tanzania (4/7/20)
Curaçao* (4/10/20)	Mongolia* (4/3/20)	Timor-Leste (4/7/20)
Dem.Rep.of the Congo (4/10/20)	Mozambique (4/7/20)	Tonga (4/7/20)
Ecuador* (4/3/20)	Nepal* (4/10/20)	UAE (4/10/20)
Fiji* (4/3/20)	New Caledonia* (4/3/20)	Uganda (4/7/20)
French Polynesia* (4/3/20)	New Guinea (4/10/20)	Uruguay (4/7/20)
Gambia (4/7/20)	Oman* (4/17/20)	Vanuatu (4/7/20)
Guatemala (4/7/20)	Panama* (4/3/20)	Venezuela (4/7/20)
Guinea Bissau (4/10/20)	Papua New Guinea (4/7/20)	Yemen* (4/17/20)
Guyana (4/10/20)	Paraguay (4/7/20)	Zambia (4/10/20)

Honduras* (4/3/20)

Peru* (4/3/20)

Zimbabwe (4/3/20)

*denotes countries not accepting incoming mail

Please do not attempt to send an item addressed to any of the affected countries. If you do, the item will be returned to you.

** Unless noted otherwise on International Service Alerts, service suspensions to a particular country do not affect delivery of military and diplomatic mail.

Thanks to Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin for info!!

DAILY DX WEB PAGE

If you are looking for the latest DX News and Info, I highly recommend you subscribe to the *Daily DX Bulletin* by Bernie, W3UR. I checked out the Daily DX's web page and found some excellent info which included QSL routes (when the mail returns to normal), a calendar of upcoming DXpeditions, and a DX Blog. Check it out:

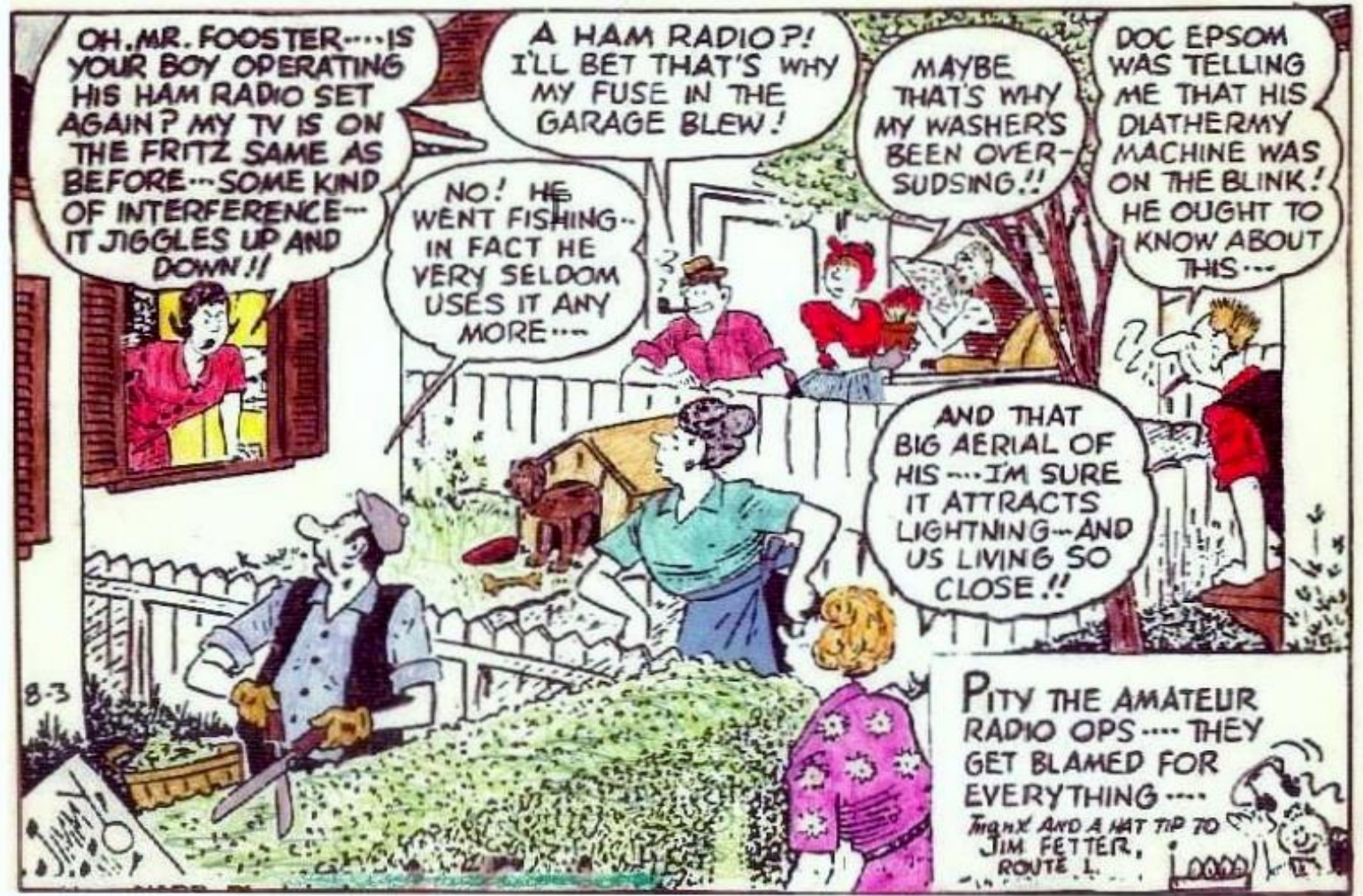
<https://www.dailydx.com/the-daily-dx-calendar/>.

W3UR edits a weekly DX bulletin, as well as his daily bulletin, that is a little more economical. Both bulletins are very accurate and consistently beat the free DX bulletins with the release of DX news.

OLDIE BUT GOODIE!

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE!

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME :-:-:- by Hatlo



Contact the Editor of the KC DX News at ab0x@kc.rr.com if you have news or comments.



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